



PLACER COUNTY  
**SHERIFF**  
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**EDWARD N. BONNER**  
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

**STEPHEN L. D'ARCY**  
UNDERSHERIFF

## PRESS RELEASE

DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: 02/13/02  
DATE/TIME OF OCCURRENCE: 02/12/02  
NATURE OF CALL: SEARCH AND RESCUE  
LOCATION OF CALL: ALPINE MEADOWS SKI AREA  
CASE NUMBER: SO02-2481

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### **SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:**

On 02/12/02, at approximately 1130 hrs., 31 year old Dennis Brinke, of New York City became lost while snowboarding on the "Summit 6" Chair lift at Alpine Meadows Ski Area. Brinke, who was snowboarding with his wife and two friends, decided to ride to the back of the Sherwood Forest lift. He had met a skier on the lift who described the route to him, and advised him to "follow the tracks" he found. Brinke rode over the top of the Summit Chair lift, and followed tracks he found in the snow. Unfortunately, these tracks had been left the week before by two subjects who had become lost attempting to do the same thing.

Brinke's wife reported him missing when he did not return to their car 4-1/2 hours later. PCSO was called and a search initiated. Elements of the North Lake Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team, the Placer County Snowmobile Search Team, and the California Highway Patrol's aircraft, "Air-21" were deployed. At 9:35 PM, Brinke was located by the Search and Rescue Team. He was given snowshoes, and walked with the Nordic Team members until they were met by members of the snowmobile team. Brinke was then transported to the entrance to Blackwood Canyon by snowmobile, before being taken to Alpine Meadows to be reunited with his wife.

Brinke told Deputies he was tired, cold and hungry, but otherwise in good health.

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**RELEASED BY: Sgt. David Cutting, S-29**

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